

**INDEX OF A SPECIAL REGULAR MEETING  
FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2001**

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**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COMMISSION  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2001**

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 P.M. by Mayor Naugle on the above date, City Commission meeting room.

Roll call showed:

Present:	Commissioner Tim Smith Commissioner Carlton B. Moore (6:13) Commissioner Cindi Hutchinson Commissioner Gloria F. Katz Mayor Jim Naugle
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Absent:	None
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Also Present:

City Manager	F. T. Johnson
City Attorney	Dennis E. Lyles
City Clerk	Lucy Masliah
Sergeant at Arms	Sergeant Abrams

NOTE: All items were presented by Mayor Naugle unless otherwise shown, and all those desiring to be heard were heard. Items discussed are identified by the agenda number for reference. Items not on the agenda carry the description "OB" (Other Business).

Invocation was offered by *Reverend Mike Jeffries*, of First Baptist Church.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Day of Mourning ..... (OB)**

Mayor Naugle recognized the presence of Commissioner John Rodstrom, Chair of the Broward County Commission. He understood the County Commission would consider a proposal about a local Day of Mourning in Broward County, and the City would want to participate. He stated that the nation had suffered a tremendous loss, and many of those present had loved ones about whom they were concerned. Mayor Naugle also wanted to recognize the Fire Department, which had been training to deal with terrorism, and Fort Lauderdale Firefighters were on standby to help with the search and rescue in New York.

**2001/2002 Budget .....(PH-1)**

The first public hearing was scheduled on the proposed millage rate and tentative budget of the City of Fort Lauderdale for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2001 and ending September 30, 2002. Notice of the proposed ordinance was published on August 31 and September 7, 2001.

Mayor Naugle noted that this was the first of two public hearings required by law on the millage rates of the City's budget for fiscal year 2001/2002. The purpose of the hearing was to receive requests and comments regarding the City's budget and tax levies, and to explain the budget and any amendments thereto.

Mayor Naugle called for those who wished to be heard. The following appeared:

Mr. Terry Sharp, Assistant Director of Finance, stated that for the fiscal year 2001/2002, there was a calculated percentage increase in the millage rate of 9.3% over the rolled back rate of 4.6112 mills, which was characterized as a 9.3% increase in property taxes by State Statute. He noted that the rate proposed for operating millage rate was lower than the rate certified to the property appraiser in July. He said the City had found this millage increase necessary to fund the proposed budget. Mr. Sharp stated the proposed millage rate of 5.0415 included all ad valorem taxes except debt service and constituted the basis for the State required advertisement concerning the budget and taxes.

Mr. Sharp reported that the proposed millage rate for debt service for the combined 1987/1992/1998 General Obligation Refunding Bonds was 0.2869, which represented a 5.7% increase in the millage rate over the rolled back rate of 0.2715. Further, the proposed millage rate for debt service for the 1997 General Obligation Bonds was 0.2099, which represented a .6% increase in the millage rate over the rolled back of 0.2086.

Mr. Sharp said the City's millage rates were only part of the total property tax bills citizens received. He noted that the City's property tax rates represented approximately 22% of the total tax bill. He also stated that the average home worth \$150,000, and assuming a 3% increase in value under the Save our Homes limit, the proposed rate would be lower, but the average homeowner would pay about \$21 per year more in property taxes than last year. Mr. Sharp said that the City's budget included the General Fund, Enterprise Funds, Community Redevelopment Funds, and Debt Service.

Mr. Sharp stated that property taxes were one of several budget resources, and property taxes represented about 25% of the resources, and the largest source of revenue involved charges for services. He advised that the General Fund budget was proposed to increase by 8.7%, and the All Funds budget would increase 3.1%. Mr. Sharp said that the budget included \$600,000 for new and expanded parks and recreation facilities and programs; \$650,000 to staff the new rescue unit on the barrier island; \$550,000 for maintenance of the police dispatch and records system; \$250,000 for the continuation of existing police positions formerly funded by grants and \$177,000 for match money for new police grants; \$1.1 million for police and fire rescue overtime costs; \$186,000 for initial debt service payment for the conversion of Lincoln Park to the new Construction Services headquarters; staff compensation increases as provided for in the second year labor agreements for non-bargaining unit employees; and, working capital reserves would be increased by \$600,000.

Mr. Sharp advised that an increase in the fire rescue assessment was proposed from \$38 to \$40, and a 5% increase in water and sewer fees was also proposed. Further, a 5% increase in stormwater fees was proposed, and a study was proposed with respect to building permit and zoning fees, but no across-the-board increase in sanitation fees was proposed. He stated that the annual impact on the average homeowner for these fees would be \$55.

Mr. Sharp stated that the second public hearing on the budget would be held on September 20, 2001 as part of the Commission's Regular Meeting, and information on the budget was available from the City Clerk's Office, his office, all of the Broward County libraries located in Fort Lauderdale, and on the City's web site.

Commissioner Smith believed the only two things the citizens had always agreed upon was that government took too much money by taxes and did not provide nearly enough services. He had asked Mr. Sharp what it would take to keep the tax bills "flat" so residents would pay the same amount of taxes this year as they had last year. Mr. Sharp stated that the millage rate would have to be 4.8762, and that would take \$2.2 million out of the recommended budget.

*Ms. Charlotte Rodstrom*, President of the Nurmi Isles Homeowners' Association, which included Royal Palm Drive, Fiesta Way, and Nurmi Drive, requested that the Commission consider following staff's original recommendation to continue collecting the Royal Palm fronds from the City streets in this neighborhood. Ms. Rodstrom noted that there were 361 Royal Palm trees on these three streets alone, and the City had been collecting fronds from those public streets for the past 40 years.

*Ms. Chris Kolfow* asked that the City reconsider funding the Curtain Call Playhouse. She distributed copies of the season brochure, and she said that last year had been the first in which the Playhouse had offered affordable theatre alternatives to Fort Lauderdale residents and tourists. Initial progress had been made, but the organization needed more time and financial support to reach the public. Ms. Kolfow said that as cultural organizations folded, the City would be left without smaller, professional and affordable theatre alternatives to the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. She described some of the programs that were offered to residents in order to introduce various groups to the exciting world of theatre.

*Ms. Frieda Rashkin* referred to the "Save Our Swales" Program. She pointed out that Mayor Naugle had supported the planting of trees on swales, but the Parks & Recreation Department did not maintain the trees in Imperial Point. She stated that the streets were stained by the leaves that fell from the trees, and the branches obstructed the streetlights. Ms. Rashkin felt too much money was being spent without getting things done.

*Mr. Robert Calvert*, of the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra, said he was present to thank the City for its support, although the full request had not been funded. Nevertheless, he was happy and would be a good steward of the monies provided by the City to advertise the Summer Festival and bring people here and to educate young people.

*Mr. John Rodstrom*, 66 Nurmi Drive, said that he had served on this Commission many years ago, and one of the goals of the City had been to be an “Arbor City” in order to address aesthetic considerations and provide shade. However, that came with certain responsibilities to maintain trees on City property. In the case of Nurmi Isles, the City had maintained the trees for 40 years, but now area homeowners would have to pay those costs. He believed residents were upset about this because of the precedent it set. Mr. Rodstrom was concerned about the cost and about the fact that the program was not obligatory for everyone to have the service. Therefore, he believed some people would pay and some would not, and the streets would become “junked up.”

Mr. Rodstrom thought the Commission would feel differently if they understood what Royal Palm fronds looked like on the street, particularly after a storm. He felt it set a bad example in a City that should be clean and a great place to live. Mr. Rodstrom asked the Commission to reconsider this issue.

Commissioner Moore recalled that when the Commission decided on the assessment, it had been to affect the entire neighborhood. Mayor Naugle agreed a discretionary program had not been adopted. Rather, everyone would be charged. Mr. Rodstrom understood there would be a subscription service, and that was not what the neighborhood wanted. He stated that this issue involved palm fronds that were 10’ long and caused damage when they fell on cars. Mr. Rodstrom stated that residents just fixed the dents and fertilized the trees even though they were on City property. He felt this neighborhood was truly unique in this respect.

Commissioner Hutchinson thought the Commission’s discussion in this regard had involved solely palm frond collection. Mr. Greg Kisela, Assistant City Manager, stated that the plan was to collect Royal Palm fronds only at a cost of \$3 per month for the 1,200 residents affected. Commissioner Moore asked Mr. Kisela to clarify the location of the palms. Mr. Kisela stated that they were in the swales, which were in the right-of-way. Therefore, the ownership was in the hands of the upland property owners.

Commissioner Smith thought there was some confusion about the billing. He believed the City Attorney had indicated that there was no justification for requiring payment of the bill except through the assessment procedure. However, the Commission decided that would take too long, so the City would just bill everyone. He thought there had also been some miscommunication about the palm fronds in Seven Isles. Commissioner Smith understood everyone only wanted the Royal Palm fronds collected, and he and the Mayor had fought to retain that service, but they had not been able to “carry the day.” Therefore, a compromise had been reached to at least provide the service with a slight fee.

Commissioner Smith wondered if the Commission would consider a further compromise. He pointed out that monthly bulk collection was already provided, and there was a special need connected with the Royal Palm fronds. He asked if the Commission would consider an additional bulk collection per month for just Royal Palm fronds, instead of the 3 times per month requested. Commissioner Smith pointed out that these neighborhoods had special needs and paid a lot of taxes, but it was not very service-intensive.

Mayor Naugle suggested that the Commission discuss the compromise mentioned by Commissioner Smith after the public hearing on the budget was closed. It was agreed.

*Ms. Barbara Ericksen*, representing Kids Voting, provided some written materials about the services provided to City residents last year. She stated that about 11,000 Fort Lauderdale students had participated in the last Presidential election, and it had been incredibly important. Ms. Ericksen wished to thank the City for its support.

*Ms. Marsha Goldsby*, President of the Lauderdale Manors Homeowners' Association, felt that the palm frond issue was one of fairness. She felt that if the City was going to provide a service to one part of Fort Lauderdale, it should be provided throughout the City. Ms. Goldsby stated that there were Royal Palms in several other neighborhoods and many had not realized the City had been providing the service for free in the past.

Ms. Goldsby referred to the Parks Bond projects in the northwest area. She wondered why it was taking so long for the Carter Park Project to commence. She had been pleased when the Commission had approved the CRA, but she wondered when she would see something happen in that respect. Ms. Goldsby had seen the plan for Sistrunk Boulevard over 10 years ago, but nothing had happened yet. Mayor Naugle noted that some positions were being included in the budget to expedite the CRA projects. Ms. Goldsby was also very concerned about the delays in the Joseph C. Carter Park project. Commissioner Moore acknowledged there had been delays, and the Parks Bond allowed for redevelopment of the entire park. He recalled that a schematic plan had been developed, but the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) was also doing a project on Sunrise Boulevard, which had resulted in some redesign of the plan. The FDOT had subsequently offered to participate in the development costs of the park rather than having to purchase private property along Sunrise Boulevard. Commissioner Moore stated that these had been the primary cause of the delay, but the delay had allowed time to find additional monies for a swimming pool in the Park, which had not been funded originally.

*Ms. Leslie Roth*, Executive Director of the Girls Scouts of Broward County, wanted to thank the Commission for its support to ensure Fort Lauderdale girls could participate in scouting. She noted that Girl Scouts provided 150,000 hours of community service in return.

*Ms. Susan Berm*, First Call for Help of Broward, appreciated Fort Lauderdale's contribution to the organization's help line services. She stated that this was the only 24-hour crisis intervention and suicide prevention hot line in Broward County. Ms. Berm described some of the programs and services provided by this organization.

*Mr. Mathis Moore*, 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Recovery, thanked the City Commission for its support. He noted that other organizations were now working with this agency as a result of the City's support.

*Mr. Ken Strand*, of Nurmi Isles, had not planned on speaking, but he became a little irritated when people spoke of fairness. He pointed out that the Nurmi and Las Olas Isles did not have any neighborhood parks, swimming pools, or recreation centers. If fairness was the issue, he thought the City should buy some land and provide some facilities in his neighborhood. Mr. Strand did not think the area asked for much, and he thought collection of the Royal Palm fronds was the least the neighborhood should expect.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Smith that the public hearing be closed. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Smith, Moore, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: none.

Commissioner Moore was pleased to see that no one from the public had spoken in opposition to the proposed tax increase. He said he would be happy to see a community center built in Nurmi Isles, as long as it was open and accessible to the general public as in other areas. Commissioner Moore said another issue of concern to him was police overtime. He pointed out that \$1.1 million was included in the budget for this purpose, while there about 27 open positions. Commissioner Moore thought that if the overtime budget were reduced to \$600,000, those positions would be filled expeditiously. He did not feel there was any incentive to fill the positions if the overtime budget was so great.

Police Chief Mike Brasfield stated that there had traditionally been a steady expense in terms of overtime, and the rate did go up when there were a significant number of vacancies. Although there were currently 27 vacancies, that was not the highest level of vacancies experienced. Chief Brasfield noted that he had been reporting to the Commission on a monthly basis with respect to efforts aimed at filling those vacancies. He explained that it was extremely difficult to obtain new recruits without reducing the criteria and standards for hiring. Chief Brasfield added that it was sometimes less expensive to pay officers at the overtime rate than it was to hire additional personnel, but the fact that the positions were vacant did not mean that the staffing was not necessary. He also noted that overtime monies not spent went back into the General Fund.

Mayor Naugle thought some of the overtime involved officers who reached the end of their shifts but had to stay on to complete an investigation. The Police Chief agreed part of the expense was for shift extension if there were late arrests or waiting calls for service. It also covered time in court, over which the Police Department had no discretion. In addition, overtime was utilized to cover festivals and special events. Mayor Naugle noted that one of the administrative assistants that served the Commission had logged 247 hours of overtime last year.

Commissioner Moore understood the operational needs for overtime, and he was not suggesting that all the overtime money be reappropriated. Rather, he felt the amount should be reduced so there would be some incentive to fill the vacant positions.

Commissioner Moore asked Mr. Sharp to explain the need for the 5% water and sewer rate increase. Mr. Sharp stated that 2.5% of the increase was necessary to offset increased operational costs. The other 2.5% was related to the Water & Sewer Master Plan already approved by the Commission. Mayor Naugle noted that was for replacement of water and sewer lines, and other infrastructure, at a cost of about \$500 million over a 10-year period with a 20-year payoff.

Commissioner Katz recalled that the Commission had discussed slowly reducing the amount of monies earmarked for social, cultural, and promotional organizations. She noted that the amount proposed this year was the same amount as last year, but she wanted to remind the Commission that it had made a decision to reduce the amount over time.

Commissioner Katz thought the palm frond issue seemed like a small matter in the grand scheme, but she agreed with Ms. Goldsby that providing the service without charge was inequitable. She pointed out that neighborhoods in her district were incensed that one neighborhood enjoyed a service they had not even been aware of. Commissioner Katz stated that their taxes were as high as the taxes in the Nurmi Isles, but area residents had been cutting up their fronds themselves or paying their gardeners to do the necessary work.

Commissioner Smith said he had not supported the proposed budget when it had been presented to the Commission a couple of months ago, and he thought the Commission should challenge the City Manager to avoid a tax increase. He stated that the City had done well over the past few years with a lot of new development projects paying lots of taxes. Commissioner Smith felt this was a good opportunity to hold taxes "flat" for the single-family homesteaded properties. He thought the City Manager should be asked to reduced the budget by \$2 million so there would be no factual tax increase to the average City homeowner.

Insofar as Commissioner Moore's concerns about Police Department overtime, Commissioner Smith had concerns about using overtime to staff the Department. He agreed it was used as a "crutch," although hiring standards were high and the procedures were cumbersome. Commissioner Smith thought the City had done a good job of reducing crime, but he still felt there was way too much crime in Fort Lauderdale that could not be addressed without filling the vacant positions.

Commissioner Smith agreed with Commissioner Katz that the expenditures for social, cultural and promotional organizations should be reduced over time, although the Commission had agreed to fund them at this level this coming year. In the future, he felt the taxpayers should be allowed to decide which charities they found the most worthy. Insofar as the palm frond issue, Commissioner Smith pointed out that the Isles did not ask for much, but they felt strongly about this matter because the neighborhood was unique. He felt the area was different from the neighborhoods in Commissioner Katz's district did not have a critical mass of huge Royal Palms lining each and every street. Further, these trees were a tourist attraction in the Las Olas Isles. Commissioner Smith thought a further compromise could be made so the Isles were not overly burdened with the huge fronds, which could not be placed in garbage cans. He supported a strictly Royal Palm frond pick up per week.

Commissioner Hutchinson asked the Police Chief how much overtime money had been returned to the general fund last year. Chief Brasfield stated that about \$300,000 had been returned to the General Fund from the Police Department. He also noted that some of the 27 vacancies involved positions related to new programs and grants that had been acquired. Chief Brasfield said it had not been long ago when the Department had a sworn strength of 486 officers, and now there was an authorized strength of 503 sworn officers. Therefore, in addition to trying to keep current with attrition, the Police Department had been aggressively seeking new funding sources for new positions.

Commissioner Hutchinson understood Commissioner Moore's point, but when she attended neighborhood meetings, the first thing people complained about was a lack of police presence in the community. She was not comfortable with reducing the overtime budget as a result. Commissioner Hutchinson said she would defer comment on the palm frond issue until the second budget hearing and keep an open mind on the issue in the meantime.

The City Manager wished to point out that while there had been a focus on the Police Department, the \$1.1 million in overtime was for both the Police and Fire Rescue Departments.



Commissioner Hutchinson said she was intrigued by Commissioner Smith's challenge to the City Manager, which would require that 67 positions be eliminated. She thought that sounded like a lot of positions, but she wondered what the City Manager could do between now and the next budget hearing. Commissioner Hutchinson pointed out that every Commissioner had a long "wish list," and they seemed to grow at every Commission meeting. She was willing, however, to at least encourage the City Manager to seek additional savings. Insofar as social, cultural and promotional funding, Commissioner Hutchinson said she was leaning towards maintaining those budgets. However, she did think consideration should be given to funding different organizations rather than the same organizations year after year.

Commissioner Moore understood the 67 positions mentioned earlier had been due to addressing customer satisfaction and the desires of this Commission. He believed the City Manager had suggested the inclusion of these positions in the budget to address issues placed on the table by the City Commission as the City's policy makers. Commissioner Moore said he had always been concerned about funding social organizations, and he felt the non-profit companies that were funded gave a great deal back to the community in providing services the City could not provide. He did not feel any organization should be funded for more than 3 years because if they were worthy, 3 years would be sufficient time to obtain other funding.

Mayor Naugle asked Commissioner Moore about funding organizations again after not funding them in the fourth year. Commissioner Moore thought that might be appropriate if an organization could show an expansion, but he was concerned because there were 3 or 4 organizations to which the City consistently contributed money. He felt that sent the message that the budgets were guaranteed.

Commissioner Moore referred to the police overtime costs. He believed that if half the money were eliminated from the budget, the Police Department would fill the empty positions and stop operating at overtime rates. Insofar as EMS services, he thought other methods such as comp time could be used when someone had to stay past shift because he was in the middle of a rescue. Commissioner Moore supported the idea of asking the City Manager to see if there was anything he could do to keep costs down, but he understood the 67 positions had been requested by the City Commission to meet the needs of the community.

Commissioner Katz understood the Budget Advisory Board had recommended that the City retain the same millage rate as last year, and that had been accomplished. She acknowledged that Fort Lauderdale homes had grown in value, which resulted in increased taxes, but she felt the Commission should remember that it had asked for various projects, and results were desired "yesterday." Commissioner Katz pointed out that it took personnel to handle those projects.

Commissioner Katz said that neighborhoods in her district had been complaining for 2 years because the medians and swales were not well maintained, and much of the staff necessary worked in the Parks & Recreation Department. She thought that if the Commission wanted the City to have a certain look in terms of maintenance, the positions were necessary. Commissioner Katz referred to police overtime and did not support diminishing the proposed budget. She pointed out that it was difficult to hire qualified police officers throughout the country.

The City Manager felt Fort Lauderdale had been very fortunate in terms of tax roll growth due to new construction. In fact, his expectations had been exceeded in this respect, but the City Commission's level of expectation had been increased. He stated that many of the positions contained in the budget related directly to the major initiatives approved by the City Commission, not the least of which was the Water and Sewer Master Plan. The City Manager said that he tried to fund those positions with the proceeds coming from those projects, so if those positions were eliminated, it would not have a concurrent impact on the General Fund.

The City Manager wished to remind the Commission that when the three-year labor agreements had been negotiated with the bargaining units last year, it had been known that the greatest impact would take place in the second year. Thus, this budget included the increases to the employees covered by those agreements.

The City Manager said he could go back and take a hard look at the areas about which the Commission had made suggestions. If possible, he would try not to have any tax impact on the average owner of homesteaded property. However, he would present an honest answer in terms of what could be done for what the City was willing to pay. He noted that although the Commission would set the tentative millage rate tonight, that could be reduced upon adoption of the final budget.

The City Manager noted that the same operating millage rate as last year was proposed, which had been a challenge of the Mayor and the Budget Advisory Board. Nevertheless, he would try to be a little more efficient and would seek further reductions in the budget if possible.

Mayor Naugle noted that the recommended budget included an expense for the first installment of the take-home automobiles. He inquired about the use policy for those automobiles. Mayor Naugle wondered if there were written policies in this regard because he feared the tremendous amount of liability associated with the off-duty use of the vehicles. He asked if a person's private coverage would apply if he violated the City's use policies. Mayor Naugle recalled a huge settlement related to an accident in a City car while the driver was off duty.

The City Manager stated that a policy was being developed, and he hoped it would be completed before the budget was finally adopted. Chief Brasfield said the Police Department had been working with labor and Risk Management, and meetings with 4 of the 5 Commissioners had been scheduled for tomorrow to brief them on the proposed policy. He stated that one thing that had been added to policies borrowed from other jurisdictions with similar programs was the requirement for an insurance rider at the expense of the employee to cover non-police related activities. Mayor Naugle wanted that policy developed before the final hearing on the budget.

Mayor Naugle agreed with Commissioner Smith in his challenge to the City Manager. He pointed out that the All Funds budget was increasing by \$10 million, and he felt that increase should be limited to \$8 million. He did not want to see any cuts, but he did not think the budget should grow this much. Commissioner Smith agreed that was what he had in mind. Mayor Naugle thought there were certain positions in the City that were unnecessary, and he thought some departments that could be combined. He said he would be glad to name them, but that was the City Manager's job. Mayor Naugle supported this challenge.

Mayor Naugle noted that the palm frond issue had received a great deal of publicity, and much of the published information had not been factual. He had been told that the original developer of the Isles had an agreement with the City in which he would plant the Royal Palms if the City agreed to collect the fronds. Mayor Naugle stated that most of the palms had been planted along Las Olas Boulevard rather than on the side streets, and a truck had gone through every Saturday to pull the fronds off the Boulevard, and the City would continue to do that. He recalled that there had been some community service workers involved some years back, and they had started collecting the fronds from the swales. That had somehow expanded into some lucrative overtime program, and then more than just the fronds were being collected.

Mayor Naugle stated that the figures provided by staff on the cost of this program had not included savings realized because the fronds were not being collected with the regular bulk trash 4 times per month. Therefore, if this could be done with community service workers since the City truck had to go down Las Olas Boulevard anyway, he believed the cost would be tiny. He commended the neighborhood for doing a census of the neighborhood palms he understood it was 2.8 trees per parcel. If there were neighborhoods with more than 2 palms per parcel, he felt similar services could be offered, but he did not think there were and the expense had been overblown.

Mayor Naugle supported continuation of the existing program if it was run properly and without the use of overtime. He also said he would support Commissioner Smith's suggestion of twice monthly collection. Mayor Naugle believed there would be a lot of people who would be unhappy with the current proposal because people with no palms would have to pay the same fee as those with 4 palms.

Commissioner Smith understood Commissioner Moore's and Commissioner Katz's concerns, and he understood how hard the City Manager had been pushed. He wanted to propose a motion that the entire Commission could support, and if the City Manager came back and said there was no way he could meet the challenge, he would take a second look at the issue.

Commissioner Smith introduced a written resolution to establish the proposed millage rate as follows:

Operating Budget	5.0415
1987/1992/1998 GOB Debt Service	0.2869
1997 GOB Debt Service	0.2099

#### RESOLUTION NO. 01-160

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE PROPOSED TO BE LEVIED BY THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2001 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002.

Which resolution was read by title only. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Smith, Moore, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: none.

Commissioner Smith introduced a written resolution to approve the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2001/2002.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-161

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2001, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002.

Which resolution was read by title only. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Smith, Moore, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: none.

Commissioner Smith introduced the following ordinance on first reading:

ORDINANCE NO. C-01-41

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE APPROVED BUDGET OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2001, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2002.

Which ordinance was read by title only. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Smith, Moore, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: none.

Mayor Naugle announced that the final public hearing to adopt the budget would be held at 6:00 p.m. on September 20, 2001.

**2001/2002 Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District ..... (PH-2)**

The first public hearing was held on the tentative budget of the Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2001 and ending September 30, 2002.

Mayor Naugle stated that this was the first of two public hearings to be held as required by law on the millage rate and Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District budget for fiscal year 2001/2002. The purpose of this hearing was to receive requests and comments regarding this budget and tax levies. Mayor Naugle called for those who wished to be heard. There were none.

Mr. Terry Sharp, Assistant Director of Finance, announced that for fiscal year 2001/2002, a percentage increase in the millage rate of 59.3% over the rolled back rate had been calculated of .9419 mills, which was characterized by State Statute as a 59.3% increase in property taxes. The City had found this rate necessary to fund the proposed budget, and the proposed millage rate of 1.5 mills, which included all ad valorem taxes except debt service and would be combined with the City's levy for the State required advertisement concerning the budget and taxes. It was his understanding that the major reason for the increase involved a planned capital improvement in the neighborhood.

*Mr. Raymond Parker*, President of the Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District, stated that the majority of the increase would be used for additional security. He stated that police officers were hired to provide about 70 hours per month of service, and that would be increased to about 100 hours.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Smith that the public hearing be closed. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Smith, Moore, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: none.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Smith to establish the proposed millage rate as follows:

Sunrise Key Neighborhood	1.5000
Improvement District Budget	

Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Smith, Moore, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: none.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson to approve the tentative budget for the Sunrise Key Neighborhood Improvement District for Fiscal Year 2001/2002. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Smith, Moore, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: none.

Mayor Naugle announced that the final public hearing to adopt the budget would be held at 6:00 p.m. on September 20, 2001.

**Fire Rescue Special Assessment ..... (PH-3)**

A public hearing was held to consider a resolution relating to the provision of fire rescue services, facilities and programs in the City; reimposing fire rescue assessments against assessed property located within the City for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2001; approving the rate of assessment; approving the assessment roll; and, providing an effective date. Notice of the public hearing was published on August 22, 2001.

Mayor Naugle announced that the purpose of this hearing was to receive input, requests and comments regarding the City's fire special assessment. Mr. Terry Sharp, Assistant Director of Finance, said that the proposed fire-rescue special assessment had been adjusted from last year to reflect a 5% increase. For residential properties, the annual levy would increase from \$38 to \$40 consistent with the five-year plan approved by the City Commission when the special assessment had been initially implement in fiscal year 1999/2000. This levy would recover 26% of the eligible costs in the Fire-Rescue Department.

Mayor Naugle called for those who wished to be heard. There were none.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson to close the public hearing. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Smith, Moore, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: none.

Commissioner Katz introduced a written resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 01-162

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF FIRE RESCUE SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS IN THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA; REIMPOSING FIRE RESCUE ASSESSMENTS AGAINST ASSESSED PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2001; APPROVING THE RATE OF ASSESSMENT; APPROVING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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Which resolution was read by title only. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Smith, Moore, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: none.

**Amend Chapter 28 – Rates for Water, Wastewater and Stormwater ..... (O-1)**

An ordinance was presented amending Chapter 28 of the Code of Ordinances entitled, "Water, Wastewater and Stormwater," by amending Sections 28-76, 28-141, 28-143, 28-144, 28-145 and 28-197 thereof to increase wastewater user rates, tapping charges, water rates, sprinkling meter charges, and stormwater management program rates. Notice of the proposed ordinance was published on September 2, 2001.

Commissioner Smith said he had been receiving calls with questions about the water shortage. Mr. Greg Kisela, Assistant City Manager, advised that the proposed 5% increase in water and sewer rates involved 2-1/2% for normal operation and maintenance and 2-1/2% to deal with financing of the 20-year Water and Sewer Master Plan previously endorsed by the City Commission. He advised that this was not related to the water shortage.

Commissioner Moore introduced the following ordinance on first reading:

ORDINANCE NO. C-01-42

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 28 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, ENTITLED "WATER, WASTEWATER AND STORMWATER," BY AMENDING SECTIONS 28-76, 28-141, 28-143, 28-144, 28-145 AND 28-197 THEREOF, TO INCREASE WASTEWATER USER RATES, TAPPING CHARGES, WATER RATES, SPRINKLING METER CHARGES, PRIVATE FIRE SERVICE PROTECTION CHARGES AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM RATES.

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Which ordinance was read by title only. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioners Hutchinson, Katz, Smith, Moore, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: none.

At 7:45 P.M., Mayor Naugle adjourned the meeting.

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Jim Naugle  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Lucy Masliah  
City Clerk